

INTELLOFAX 14

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: U.S.S.R. (Moscow)

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SUBJECT Construction of a River Harbor in
Otvashnoye-Yablunka

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 1 (2 pages)
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, U.S.C. 51 AND 52, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

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1. Otvashnoye and Yablunka are two small fishing villages on the large Volga River bend near Kuibyshev (53°11'N/50°09'E) on the southern bank of the Volga opposite Stavropol (53°31'N/49°20'E) in the oil district of Solnoy. These two villages merged into one town of about 30,000 inhabitants as a result of the influx of workers for the development of oil wells there.
2. The river harbor, on the eastern edge of Otvashnoye-Yablunka was under construction. It extended about 3 km along the Volga River and was about 500 meters wide. About 500 PWs and 500 Soviet workers were employed on the construction of this harbor. An engineer company from Kuibyshev was also assigned to the construction of quay walls, the harbor jetty and the ferry. *
3. The construction work began in 1946 with the expansion of the Yablunka-Solnoy road. The old highway was widened to 9 meters. After completion of the road construction, the southern bank of the Volga River was improved, in five stages, and a quay wall, about 3 km long and 5 to 6 meters high, was erected of granite and concrete blocks. This wall was about 1.5 meters above the mean water level of the Volga. The water depth at the quay ranged between 3.5 and 4.5 meters. A quay road, 6 meters wide, running along the quay wall, was then built and covered with a layer of concrete, 20 cm thick. Mooring bollards were placed at intervals of 50 meters and 12 warehouses were erected along the road. The rough brickwork of six of these warehouses was completed in December 1949 while the other six were still in the excavation stage.
4. A harbor mole, 50 meters wide and about 500 meters long, was under construction on the western end of the harbor area and was completed in December 1949. A lighthouse with a signal station was erected on the mole.
5. An oil depot was being constructed near the harbor mole. Tank vessels will be loaded there with mineral oil produced in Solnoy. The depot consisted of two main buildings, several sheds and small houses, and about six to ten fuel tanks, each about 10 meters in diameter and 15 meters high. The depot which was enclosed by a wall, 3 meters high, was put into service in August 1949. A number of tank vessels had been filled before the Volga River became ice-bound in early December 1949.

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6. A quay wall, about 1 km long, was also erected on the northern bank of the Volga River. A rope ferry to the new building site was constructed across the Volga by an engineer company. The ferry boat could carry several trucks with full trailers at one time. A new road to Stavropol was built from the landing point of the ferry on the northern bank.

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[redacted] Comment. For layout sketch of this harbor, see Annex. The expansion of the harbor is the result of increased mineral oil production near Solny. A portion of the mineral oil is shipped by water to the refining plants in Stavropol or Kuibyshev while a comparatively small portion of the oil is processed in a mineral-oil distilling plant in Solny. The expansion of the harbor in Otvashnoye and Solny has been confirmed [redacted]

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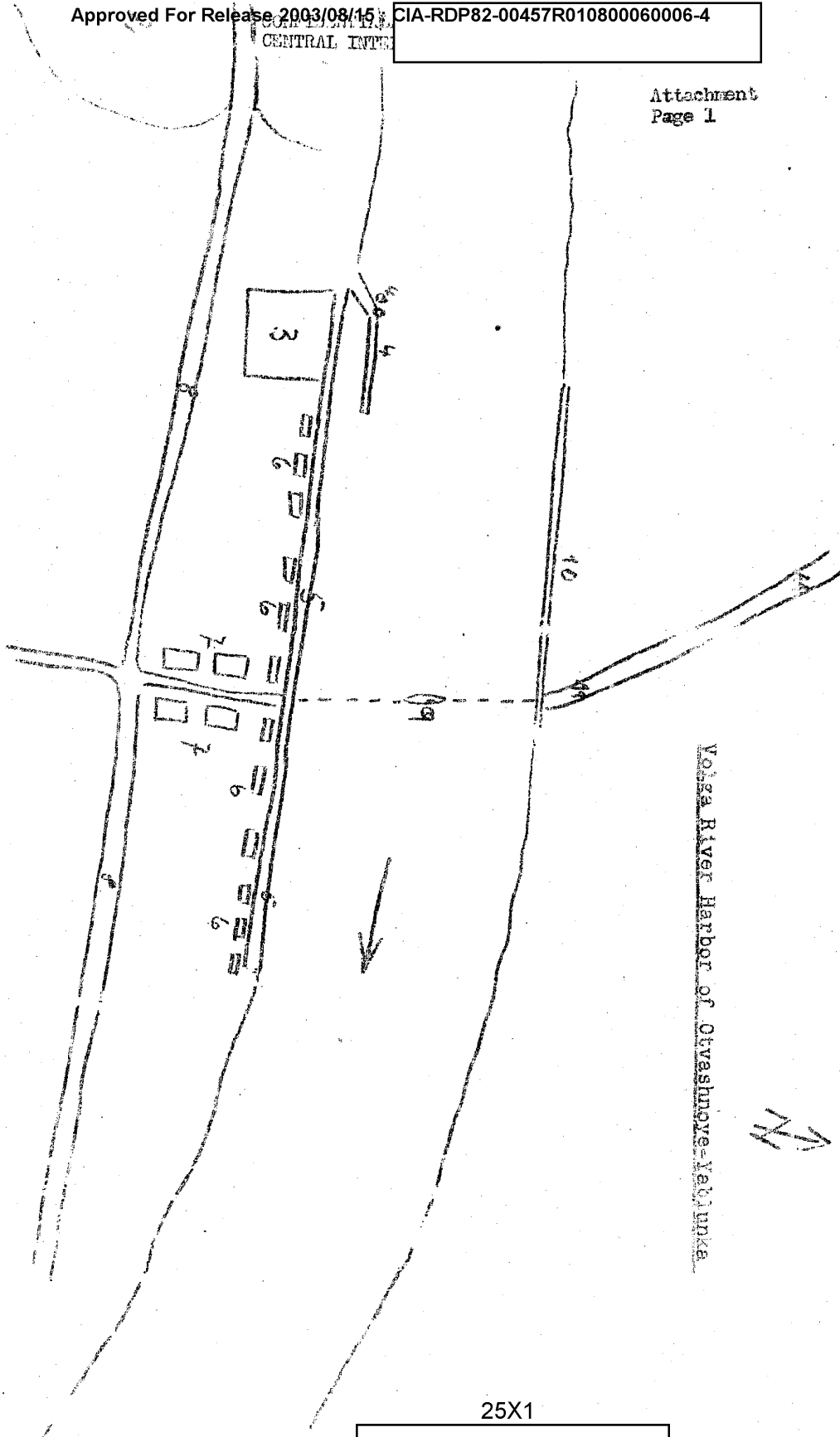
Annex: Sketch of Volga River Harbor of Otvashnoye-Yablunka with Legend.

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Attachment
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Attachment

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1. Village of Otvashnoye.
2. Village of Yablunka.
3. Fuel depot.
4. Harbor mole.
- 4a. Lighthouse and signal station.
5. Quay installation.
6. Warehouses.
7. Four office buildings under construction.
8. Yablunka-Solnoy road, 9 meters wide.
9. Rope ferry built by an engineer company.
10. Newly constructed quay installation on the northern bank of the Volga River.
11. New road to Stavropol.

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